Income of farmers

1805. SHRI ABU ASIM AZMI:
SHRI AMAR SINGH:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Indian farmers are getting today the same price for their produce which they had been getting 20 years ago as per reports of United Nationals Conference on Trade and Development;

(b) whether it is also a fact that income of farmers in various parts of the country has drastically fallen and if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the remedial steps Government propose to take in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR): (a) The report of United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) "Agricultural Trade Policy in India—Challenges and Opportunities (July-2005)" states as follows:-

"Agricultural Commodity prices have fallen by some 50% in the last two decades; the net effect being a loss of annual export earnings to the tune of $ 60 billion a year for developing countries".

The above information is for developing countries and not India specific.

(b) The Index of Terms of Trade (ITT) for agriculture with base TE 1990-91 (TE-1990-91=100) was 106.6 in 1994-95 and declined to 102.6 in 2001-02. In 2002-03, the ITT increased to 103.6. As per the provisional figures, the ITT has declined to 102.5 in 2003-04.

(c) Several schemes and programmes have been initiated to improve the income of the farmers. The National Horticulture Mission launched in May, 2005, is designed to double the production of horticulture crops by 2011-12. Under this Mission, assistance is being provided for development of seeds and planting material through the public and the private sector. Under the Integrated scheme of Oilseeds, Pulses, Oil Palm and Maize (ISOPOM) subsidy is given for seed production and distribution. Under Mini Mission II of Technology Mission on Cotton also, assistance is provided for supply of breeder seed and production of foundation seeds. Similarly, under the scheme National Project on Organic Farming, financial support is given to farmers for setting up of fruits and vegetable wastes compost

unit, bio-fertilizer production and vermiculture hatcheries. Farmers also receive subsidy on purchase of various agricultural equipments, including hand tools, bullock drawn/power-driven implements, sprinkler and drip irrigation equipments, tractors, power tillers etc. Under the National Agricultural Insurance Scheme (NAIS), small and marginal farmers receive subsidy to the extent of 10% of the premium, at present.

It is also worth mentioning here that in order to make the Kisan Credit Cards (KCC) scheme more beneficial to the farmers by catering to their investment credit requirements, the NABARD revised the KCC scheme in August, 2004 to cover term loans for agriculture and allied activities. Keeping in view the role of animal husbandry and fishery sectors in improving income levels of farmers, particularly for landless, small and marginal farmers, special attention is being paid to animal diseases control, livestock breed improvement and development, fodder development, dairy and poultry development, and fisheries development.

Cows and stray cattle

1806. SHRI DHARAM PAL SABHARWAL: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that due to mechanized farming in Punjab, male calves in large number have become useless and are roaming stray in Punjab;

(b) whether the Government of Punjab has sought permission from Government to export these stray cattle to the neighbouring States where bullocks are used for farming;

(c) whether the permission has been granted and if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) whether the Government of Punjab have also sought permission from Government to export cows of cross breed to the neighbouring States and if so, the action taken by Government in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI TASLIMUDDIN): (a) to (d) Due to mechanized farming in Punjab, the utility of male calves has dwindled. The Government of India has not received any request from Government of Punjab to grant permission to export the stray cattle including cows of cross breed to the neighbouring States.